DECLARATION
OF THE
Lords and Commons
IN
PARLIAMENT.
With the Additionall Reasons, lat presented to His Majesty.

Saturday 12 March, 1641.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, That the Declaration, with the Additionall Reasons lat presented to His Majesty, shall be forthwith Printed and Published.

John Brune, Clerk. Parl.
H. Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

Whereunto is annexed His Majesties Speech to the Committee, the 9 of *March*, 1641. When they presented the Declaration of both Houses of Parliament at *Newmarket*.

LONDON,
Printed for *F. C.* and *T. B.* 1641.

A DECLARATION TO HIS MAJESTY.

May it please Your most excellent Majesty,

ALthough the expressions of your Majesties Message, the 2 of this instant month, do give just cause of sorrow to Vs, Your Majesties faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in *Parliament*; yet it is not without some mixture of Confidence and Hope, considering they proceed from the misappprehentions of our Actions & Intentions, which having no ground of *truth* or *reallity*, may, by Your Majesties Justice and Wisdom be removed, when Your Majesty shall be fully informed, that these *feares* and *jealousies* of Ours, which Your Majesty thinks to be causelesse and without just grounds, do necessarily and clearly arise from these dangers and distempers, into which the mischievous and evill Councellours about You, have brought this Kingdom; and that those other *feares* and *jealousies*, by which Your favour, Your Royall presence and confidence have been withdrawn from Your *Parliament*, have no foundation or subsistence in any Action, Intention or Miscarriage of Ours, but are meerely grounded upon the falsehood and malice of those, who for the supporting and fomenting their own wicked designes, against the Religion and Peace of this Kingdom, do seek to deprive Your Majesty of the strength and affection of Your People, Them of Your Grace and Protection; and thereby to subject both Your Royal person and the whole Kingdom, to ruine and destruction.

To satisfie Your Majesties Judgment and Conscience in both these points; We desire to make a cleare and free *Declaration*, of the causes of Our *feares* and *jealousies*, which We offer to Your Majesty in these particulars.

1 That the designe of altering Religion, in this, and in Your other Kingdoms, hath been potently carried on, by those in greatest authority about You, for divers yeares together; and that the Queens Agent at *Rome*, and the Popes Agent at *Nuncio* here, are not only evidences of this designe, but have been great Actors in it.

2 That the Wars with *Scotland* was procured to make way for this Intention, and chiefly incited and fomented by the Papists, and others Popishly affected, whereof we have many evidences, especially their free and generall Contribution to it.

3 That the Rebellion in *Ireland* was framed and contrived here in *England*; and that the *English* Papists should have risen about the same

same time; We have divers testimonies and advertisements from *Ireland*; and that it is a common speech among the Rebels, wherewith concur other evidences and observations of the suspitious Meetings and Consultations; the tumultuary and seditious carriage of those of that Religion, in divers parts of the Kingdom, about the breaking out of the *Irish* Rebellion; the Deposition of *O Connely*, the Information of Mr *Cole* Minister, the Letter of *Prestram Whitcomb*, the Deposition of *Tho. Grant*, and many others; which we may produce, do all agree in this.

4. The publick Declaration of the Lords, Gentlemen, and others of the *Pale*, that they would joyne with the Rebels, whom they call the *Irish Army*, or any other, to recover unto His Majesty His Royal Prerogative, wrested from Him by the *Puritan* Faction in the Houses of *Parliament* in *England*, and to maintaine the same against all others; as also to maintaine Episcopall Iurisdiction, and the root these two being the Quarrels upon which His Majesties late Army in the *North*, should have been incensed against us.

5. The great Cause we have to dout, that the late designe, styled The Queens pious Intention, was for the alteration of Religion in this Kingdom: for successe whereof the Popes *Nuncio*, and *Count Rosetti* injoyned Fasting and Praying to be observed every week, by the *English Papists*, which appeared to Us by one of the Original Letters directed by him to a Priest in *Lancashire*.

6. The boldnesse of the Rebels, in affirming *They do nothing but by authority from the King*; that they call themselves the *Queens Army*; that the Prey or Booty which they take from the *English*, they marke with the Queens Marke. That their purpose was to come into *England*, after they had done in *Ireland*; and sundry other things of this kind, proved by *O Connely*, and divers others, especially the aforementioned Letter from *Prestram Whitcombe*, the Major of *Kinsale*, to his Brother *Benjamin Whitcomb*, wherein there is this passage, that *Many other speeches they utter about Religion and our Court of England, which he dares not commit to paper.*

The manifold attempts to provoke Your Majesties late Army, and the Army of the *Scots*, and to raise a Faction in the City of *London* and other parts of the Kingdom; that those who have been Actors in this businesse, have had their Dependance, Countenance and Incouragement from the Court; witnes the Treason whereof Mr *Germin* and others stand accused, who were transported beyond Sea by Warrant under Your Majesties hand, after Your Majesty had given assurance to Your *Parliament* that Your Majesty had layd a strict command upon all Your Servants, that none of them should depart from Court; and that dangerous Petition delivered to Captaine *Legge*, by Your Majes-

[illegible] with a direction signed with *C. R.*

The false and scandalous accusation against the L. *Kimbolton*, and the 5 Members of the House of Commons, tendred to the *Parliament*, by Your Majesties own command, endeavoured to be justified in the City by Your own presence and perswasion, and to be put in execution upon their Persons, by Your Majesties demand of them in the House of Commons, in so terrible and violent a manner, as far exceeded all former breaches of Priviledges of *Parliament*, acted by Your Majesty, or any of Your Predecessors: And whatsoever Your owne Intentions were, divers bloody and desperate persons, which attended your Majesty, discovered their affections and resolutions to have massacred and destroyed the *Members* of that House, if the absence of those Persons accused, had not by Gods providence stopt the giving of that Word, which they expected, for the setting them upon that barbarous and bloody designe.

The Listing of so many Officers, Souldiers and others, putting them into pay, and nuder Command of Collonels, keeping them at *White Hall*, Feasting and carousing them in an unusuall maner, therby maintaining them in the violent Assaults, and other injuries, which they offered to divers of Your Subjects comming that way, in a Lawful & peaceable manner; the carrying them out of the Town, and keeping them in so long a Pay, after which they were told by the L. *Digby* that *the King removed on purpose that they might not be trampled in the dust*; endeavouring to ingage the Gentlement of the *Innes of Court*, in the same cause; the plotting and designing of a perpetuall Guard about Your Majesty, the labouring to infuse into Your Majesties Subjects an evill opinion of the *Parliament* throughout the whole Kingdome, and other symptomes of a disposition of raising Armes, and dividing Your People by a Civill war, in which combustion *Ireland* must needs be lost, and this Realme miserably wasted and consumed, if not wholly ruined and destroyed.

That the Lord Digby *should presume to Councell Your Majesty to declare Your Selfe, and to retire to a place of strength in this Kingdome; and to perswade you that you could not be safe among your People, and yet should have such Credit with you as to be sent away by your Warrant to Sir* John Pennington, *to land him beyond the Sea, where he tooke that transcendent holdnesse to vent his own Trayterous conceptions in the Letter to the Queene*, offering to entertaine a corespondency with Her Majesty by Cyphers, intimating some service which he might do in those parts; for which he desired Your Majesties Intentions, wherby in all probability he intended the procuring of some Forreigne Forces to strengthen Your Majesty in that condition to which he would have brought; which false and malicious Councell and advice.

We

we have great cause to doubt, made too deep an impression in Your Majesty, considering the course you are now pleased to take, of absenting Your selfe from Your *Parliament*, and carrying the Prince with you, which seems to expresse a purpose in Your Majesty to keep Your selfe in a readinesse for the acting of it.

The manifold Advertisements We have had from *Rome*, *Venice*, *Paris*, and other parts, that they still expect that You have some great designe in hand, for the altering of Religion; the breaking neck of Your *Parliament*; that You will yet find meanes to compose that designe; that the Popes *Nuncio* hath sollicited the Kings of *France* and *Spaine* to lend Your Majesty 4000. men a piece to help to maintaine Your Royalty against the *Parliament, and this of forreigne forces seemeth to be the most pernicious and malignant designe of all the rest*, because no man can believe You will give up Your people and Your Kingdome to be spoyled by strangers, if You did not likewise intend both to change Your own profession in Religion, and the publike profession of the Kingdome, that so You might still be more assured of those forraine states of the Popish Religion for Your future support and defence; but We hope God will direct Your Majesty to better Councels.

These are some of the grounds of our feares and jealousies, which made us so coanestly to implore Your royall Authority and Protection for our defence and security in all the wayes of humility and submission, which being denyed by Your Majesty, seduced by evil councels, We do with sorrow, for the great and inavoydable misery, which is like to fall upon Your own Person, and Your Kingdomes, apply Our selves to the use of that Power, for the security and defence of both, which by the fundamentall Laws and Constitutions of this Kingdome, resides in Vs: yet still resolving to keepe Our selves within the bounds of Faithfulnesse and Allegeance to Your Sacred Person, and Your Crownes: so as to the second sort of *jealousies* and *fears* of Vs expresst by Your Majesty, We shall give a shorter, but as true and as faithfull an Answer.

Wheras Your Majesty is pleased to say that for Your residing neer Your *Parliament*, you wish it might be so safe and honourable that You had no cause to absent Your selfe from *White-hall*, this We take as the greatest breach of the Priviledges of *Parliament* that can be offered, the heaviest misery to Your selfe and injury to Vs and imputation upon Vs, that can be imagined, the most mischievous effect of evill Councels, it rootes up the foundation of that safety and honour which the Crowne affords, it seems as much as may be to cast upon the *Parliament* such a charg as is inconsistent with the nature of Your great Counsell being body wherof Your Majesty is the head, it strikes at the very being both of King and *Parliament*, depriving our Ma-

jesty in your owne apprehension of their fidelity and them of Your protection, which are the mutuall bands of Government and subjection.

We have according to Your Majestys desire laid Our hands upon Our hearts, we have asked Our selves in the strictest examination of Our Consciences; We have searcht Our affections, Our thoughts, considered Our actions, and We find none that can give Your Majesty any just occasion to absent Your selfe from *Whitehall* and the *Parliament*, but that you may with more honour and safety, continue there then in any other place.

Your Majesty layes a generall taxe upon Vs; if you will be graciously pleased to let Vs know the particulars, We shall give a cleer and satisfactory Answer: But what hope can we have of ever giving your Majesty satisfaction, when those particulars which you have been made believe were true, yet being produced and made known to Vs, appeared to be false; and your Majesty notwithstanding, will neither punish, nor produce the Authors, but go on to contract new jealousies and feares upon generall and uncertaine grounds, affording Vs no meanes or possibility of particular Answer, to the cleering of Our selves; For proofe whereof, we beseech your Maiesty to consider these Instances.

The speeches alleadged to be spoken in a meeting of divers Members of both Houses at *Kensington*, concerning a purpose of restraining the Queen and Prince, which after it was denyed and disavowed, yet your Maiesty refused to name the Authors, though humbly desired by both Houses.

The report of Articles framed against the Queens Maiesty, given out by some of neer relation to the Court; but when it was publikly and constantly disclaimed, the credit seemed to be withdrawn from it; but the Authors being kept safe, will alwayes be ready for exploits of the same kind, wherewith your Maiesty and the Queen, will be often troubled, if this course be taken to cherish and secure them in such wicked and malicious slanders.

The heavy charge and accusation of the Lord *Kimbolton*, and the five Members of the House of Commons, who refused no tryall or examination, which might stand with the Priviledge of *Parliament*; yet no Authors, no witnesses produced, against whom they may have reparation for the great injury and infamy cast upon them; notwithstanding three severall Petitions of both Houses, and the Authority of two Acts of *Parliament*, vouched in the last of those Petitions.

We beseech your Maiesty to consider in what estate you are, how easie add faire a way you have to happinesse, honor, greatnesse, plenty and security if you will Joyne with the *Parliament* and your faithfull Sub-

Subiect in the defence of the Religion and publique good of the Kingdome: This is all Wee expect from you, and for this Wee shall returne to You Our lives, fortunes and uttermost endeavours to support Your Majesty, Your just Soveraignty and power over us, but it is not words that can secure us in these Our humble desires; We cannot but too well, and sorrowfully remember what gratious Messages We had from You this Summer, when with Your privity, the bringing up the Army was in agitation; We cannot but with the like affections recall to Our minds, how not two dyes before, You gave directions for the above mentioned accusation, and Your own comming to the Commons House, that House received from Your Majesty a gracious Message, that You would always have a care of their Priviledges, as of Your own Prerogative of the safety of their persons, as of Your own children: That which we expect, which will give Vs assurance that you have no thought, but of Peace and Justice to Your People, must be some reall effect of Your goodnesse to them, in granting those things, which the present necessity of the Kingdom, do inforce Vs to desire: And in the first place, that Your Majesty will be gratiously pleased to put from You, those wicked and mischievous Counsellors, which have caused all these dangers and distractions, and to continue Your own Residence, and the Princes neere *London*, and the Parliament, which We hope will be a happy beginning of contentment, and confidence betwixt Your Majesty and Your People, and be followed with many succeeding blessings of Honour and Greatnesse to Your Majesty, and of security and prosperity to them.

The Additionall Reasons.

THe Lords and Commons have commanded us to present unto Your Majesty this further Addition to their former Declaration.

That Your Majesties returne and continuance neere the *Parliament*, is a matter in their apprehension of so great necessity and importance towards the preservation of Your Royall Person and Your Kingdomes, that they cannot thinke they have discharged their duties in the single expression of their desire, unlesse they adde some further Reasons to back it with.

I. *Your Majesties absence will cause men to believe, that it is out of designe to discourage the undertakers, and hinder the other provisions for rising money for defence of* Ireland.

II. *It will very much hearten the Rebels there, and disaffected persons in this Kingdome, as being an evidence, and effect of the jealousie and division betwixt your Majesty, and your people.*

III. *That it will much weaken and withdraw the affection of the Subiect from your Majesty, without which a Prince is deprived of his choicest strength and lustre, and left naked to the greatest dangers and miseries, that can be imagined.*

IV. *That it will invite and encourage the enemies of our Religion and the State, in forraine parts, to the attempting and acting of their evill designes, and intentions towards us.*

V. *That it causeth a great interruption in the proceedings of Parliament.*

These considerations threaten so great danger to Your Majesties Person and to all Your Dominions, that as your Majesties great Councell, they hold it necessary to represent to you this their faithfull advise that so whatsoever followeth, they may be excused before God and Man,

His Majesties Speech to the Committee, the [illegible] of March, 1641. when they presented the Declaration of both Houses of Parliament at Newmarket.

I Am confident that you expect not I should give you a speedy Answer to this strange and unexpected Declaration. And I am sorry (in the distraction of this Kingdome) you should thinke this way of addresse to be more convenient than that purposed by my Message of the 2d of *January* last, to both Houses.

As concerning the grounds of your Feares and Iealousies. I will take time to answer particularly, and doubt not but I shall do it to the satisfaction of all the World. God in his good time will, I hope, discover the secrets of all Plots and Treasons; and then I shall stand right in the eyes of all my People. In the meane time, I must tell you, That I rather expected a vindication for the imputation laid on me in Mr *Pyms* Speech, than that any more generall Rumors and Discourses should get credit with you.

For my Feares and Doubts, I did not thinke they should have been thought so groundlesse or trivial, while so many seditious Pamphlets and Sermons are looked upon, and so great Tumults are remembred, unpunished, uninquired into: I still confesse my Feares, and call God to witnesse, that they are greater for the true Protestant profession, my People and Lawes, than for my own Rights or Safety, though I must tell you, I conceive that none of these are free from danger.

What would you have? Have I violated your Laws? Have I denyed to passe any one Bill for the ease and security of my Subjects? I do not aske you what you have done for me.

Have any of my People been transport with Feares and Apprehensions? I have offered as free and generall a pardon, as your selves can devise. All this considered, There is a Judgement from Heaven upon this Nation, if these distractions continue.

God so deale with Me and Mine, as all my Thoughts and Intentions are upright for the maintenance of the true Protestant profession, and for the Observation and Preservation of the Laws of this Land; And I hope, God will blesse and assist those Laws for My preservation.

As for the Additionall Declaration, you are to expect an Answer to it when you shall receive the Answer to the Declaration it selfe.

FINIS.

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